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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,078	12/21/2000	Woodrow C. Monte	32166.00002	2298

7590 01/29/2002

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EXAMINER

JIANG, SHAOJIA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/747,078

Applicant(s)

MONTE, WOODROW C.

Examiner

Shaojia A. Jiang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of the invention of Group I, claims 1-24, in Paper No. 3 submitted December 6, 2001 is acknowledged.

The traversal is on the ground(s) that (1) "lastose-converting enzymes are one of specific example of heat sensitive, biologically active material". This is found persuasive because the support for this statement is found in the instant specification (page 2, line 16 to page 3 line 18). Thus, Group I and II are not separate and distinct. Therefore, the restriction is modified as to combine Group I and II into a single invention, new Group I, and *Specie Election* for new Group I (see below).

The traversal is on the ground(s) that (2) "An example of the structure of device is the tablet". This is found persuasive because the support for this statement is found in the instant specification (page 6, lines 2-7). Thus, Group III and IV are not separate and distinct. Therefore, the restriction is modified as to combine Group III and IV into a single invention, new Group II.

Inventions new Group I and II are related as process of use and product. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the claimed method comprising method steps (a-d) herein may be used broadly for other materials not necessary for the particular device or tablet herein.

Therefore, the inventions of new Groups I and II are seen to be separate and distinct inventions properly restricted from each other. Further, the search for the inventions of both new Groups I and II would place an undue burden on the Office.

The traversal is on the ground(s) that (3) "the groupings made by the Examiner are further unsupported by any division in class or subclass". This is not found persuasive since regarding the classification of the inventions herein, the search is not limited to the patent files. The search field for a composition is non-coextensive with the search field for a method of employing the same composition. A reference to the composition herein would not necessarily be a reference to the method of treatment herein under 35 USC 103. The composition and method herein have separate consideration as to patentability.

Election of Species

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention for new Group I (see above restriction): numerous heat-sensitive active materials. See, e.g., claims 1.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single specified species, a specific heat-sensitive active material, for the elected group (see above restriction) for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, Claims 1-9 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species. The claims read on the employment of various heat-sensitive active materials with great diversity of chemical structures classified across

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class 424 and 514, the search for all of which presents an undue burden on the Office. It is noted that a reference to one individual agent would not be a reference to another individual agent under 35 U.S.C.103.

A "specie" is a specific compound or treatment, with all parameters and/or substituent variables FULLY accounted for.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

A telephone call was made to Mr. David E. Rogers on January 17, 2001 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

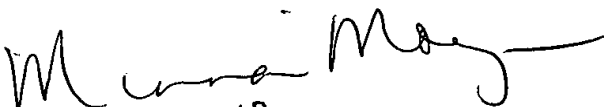
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Jiang, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minna Moezie, J.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4612. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-1235.

Shaojia A. Jiang, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner, AU 1617
January 17, 2002


MINNA MOEZIE, J.D.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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